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Message Text

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46
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 OIC-04 AID-20 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IGA-02

FDRE-00 DRC-01 /242 W
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R 281605Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2074
INFO USUN NEW YORK 1870

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13162

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, EAGR, FAO
SUBJECT: 17TH FAO CONFERENCE - ISSUE OF GUINEA BISSAU

1. LATE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, GUINEA PREPARED DRAFT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PEOPLES OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAP-VERT.... AND (A) CONDEMNING "PORTUGAL'S ILLEGAL OCCUPATION AND ACTS OF AGGRESSION...." AND (B) DEMANDING "THE WITHDRAWAL OF PORTUGAL FROM ALL TERRITORIES OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAP-VERT...." DRAFT DID NOT REACH PLEANRY BUT RATHER WAS REFERRED IMMEDIATELY TO COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS WHERE UNITED STATES SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED IT (NOVEMBER 27) AS ADMISSIBLE RESOLUTION. THIS SUPPORTED BY LEGAL COUNSEL ON GROUNDS ISSUE THIS TYPE APPROPRIATE ONLY FOR UN DELIBERATION. AFTER IT WAS DECIDED DRAFT INADMISSIBLE, ROMANIA, WHICH HAD SPOKEN FOR DRAFT IN GENERAL COMMITTEE, INDICATED IT WOULD LATER RAISE ISSUE ON FLOOR PLENARY.

2. FOLLOWING ABOUVE, DELEGATION ASKED SEE DDG JACKSON PRIVATELY AND STRESSED SERIOUS US CONCERN OVER POLITICAL ROUTE BEING TAKEN
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ON SO MANY ISSUES IN FAO FORUM. JACKSON ASSURED US FAO SHARED THIS

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CONCERN AND WAS DISTRESSED AT POLITICAL INTERVENTIONS WHICH HAD REACHED UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL. HE FEARED MAJOR DONOR SUPPORT WOULD BE ENDANGERED AND THOUGHT THEY WOULD NEED ACT IN CONCERT TO CORRECT SITUATION. DELEGATION OBJECTED THIS COMMENT IN SENSE CORRECTIVE ACTION WOULD REQUIRE NOT ONLY MEMBER GOVERNMENT ACTION BUT ALSO FULL SECRETARIAT HELP. WE SAID WE HAD FEELING THAT BETTER GUIDANCE FOR PLENARY CHAIRMAN KAMANGA OF ZAMBIA PARTICULARLY ON POINTS OF ORDER MIGHT HAVE HELPED REDUCE NUMEROUS POLITICAL INTERVENTIONS OF PAST DAYS. JACKSON AGREED. IN PRESENCE DELEGATION MEMBERS HE TELEPHONED LEGAL COUNSEL (CONTINI) AND ASKED FOR REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF ITEM. CONTINI APPARENTLY SPOKE ALONG LINES REPORTED ABOVE BUT SAID GUINEA HAD SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN DRAFT RESOLUTION.

3. DELEGATION TOLD JACKSON IT APPRECIATED HEARING THIS BUT HOPED LEGAL COUNSEL AND OTHERS WOULD BRIEF KAMANGA ON POSSIBILITY THIS ADDITIONAL ISSUE BEING RAISED IN PLENARY AND SUGGEST FIRM ACTIONS WHICH HE MIGHT TAKE IF RAISED. SPECIFICALLY, WE SAID IF ISSUE RAISED, WE HOPE CHAIR WILL BE URGED TO IMMEDIATELY CALL FOR LEGAL COUNSEL VIEWS AND THAT CONTINI WILL THEN PROVIDE CLEAR OPINION WHICH WOULD STOP FURTHER DISCUSSION. JACKSON PROMISED DO WHAT HE COULD AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM DG BOERMA OF OUR APPROACH. HE SAID HE AND BOERMA ANXIOUS FAO NOT BE SEEN AS "PATSY" FOR ADVANCING POLITICAL CAUSES IN UN SYSTEM.

4. JACKSON LATER APPROACHED DELEGATION TO SAY KAMANGA HAD SOLEMN PROMISE OF GUINEA THAT ISSUE WOULD NOT BE RAISED IN PLENARY. IF RAISED BY OTHERS AND A POINT OF ORDER IS INTRODUCED, KAMANGA PREPARED RULE OUT OF ORDER WITH ADVICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL.

5. REFERENCE WAS MADE (NOVEMBER 28) TO GUINEA RESOLUTION IN WELCOMING SPEECH OF ALGERIA WHICH FOLLOWED PLENARY ADDRESS OF GUINEA-BISSAU. ALGERIAN SAID HE HOPED GUINQ NEHSBFFZUTKNULD BE INTRODUCED IN AFTERNOON SESSION. ON PODIUM, DG, CHAIRMAN, LEGAL COUNSEL AND ADG FOR AFRICA CONSULTED AND WENT INTO ACTION. LATTER WAS SEEN TO APPROACH CAMEROON AND NIGERIAN REPS. THE CHAIRMAN ALSO SENT NOTE TO NIGERIAN REP WHO THEN WENT TO TALK WITH GUINEA.

6. RESULT ALL THIS WAS NOTE BACK TO CHAIRMAN AND CALMING EFFECT ALL AROUND. LEGAL COUNSEL OF VIEW ALGERIA WAS UNAWARE RESOLUTION CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD NOT BE PURSUED. HE THOUGHT ISSUE DEAD. THIS PROVED BE CASE FOR 28TH AT LEAST. VOLPE

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